



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
September 19,
2006,

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 24

Governor Togiola regrets Utu Abe Malae not staying with DBAS, wishes him all the best

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today said he was very encouraged after meeting early this week with Development Bank of American Samoa – Chairman Liufau T. Sonoma, and President Utu Abe Malae, where Chairman Liufau informed the Governor that Utu has agreed to stay on with Development Bank and serve as permanent president.

However, today, Utu, informed the Governor by email that perhaps Chairman Liufau was more than optimistic, but he (Utu) really did not agree to stay on with the bank. Furthermore, Utu informed Governor Togiola that he is considering other job offers because he cannot keep up with his “fa’aSamoa and church obligations” at the salary he is receiving. But, since the bank is just a small one, he is not comfortable asking for a higher salary.

Governor Togiola today expressed his regret to receiving this notice from Utu, as the Governor was extremely happy that Utu had chosen to stay on and help build Development Bank into a real “development bank” that can serve a real driving engine for business and economic development for American Samoa.

“Development Bank has improved tremendously under Utu’s leadership, and was well on its way to really addressing development issues I was concerned about,” said Governor Togiola. “But now that Utu is looking to move on to greener pastures, I wish him all the best. We will just have to look, once again, for another president that can continue the momentum of the last couple of years. If Utu should leave the bank, it will be a set back for the bank and for our country, but I believe the positive drive and energy that Utu has started will continue.”

ASCC Secures GEAR UP Grant for American Samoa

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

(ASCC PRESS RELEASE) In a recent memo to the faculty, staff and students of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea’i commended HC Tupua Roy Fua of the College’s Teacher Education Department his efforts in securing the GEAR UP Grant for American Samoa. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, a federal initiative designed to increase the number of low income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

This project, known as “GEAR UP Samoa,” will provide on-going educational services to a cohort of more than 850 middle school students as they move toward graduation from high school and enrollment in college. Collaborators in the project will include the Department of Education, the ASCC Teacher Education Department, and several other public and private agencies. Dr. Satele-Galea’i has named Tupua as GEAR UP Project Director, and said that because of the extensive responsibilities that will go along with this new directorship, the College will select a new chairperson for the Teacher Education Department in the near future.

Along with ASCC Vice President Dr. Seth Galea’i and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham, Dr. Satele-Galea’i has begun consultation with Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele of DOE to work out the details of implementing GEAR UP by the spring 2007 school semester. “The initial plan calls for the establishment of ‘learning centers’ at five sites accessible to our high school students on Tutuila and Manu’a,” explained Dr. Seth Galea’i. “These centers will serve as models for more to come. Students can utilize the resources at the centers to improve their skills in English and Math. At the same time, instructors can use these same resources to upgrade their own teaching skills in all content areas, and also receive training in the use of current learning technology for their classrooms.”

When GEAR UP gets into full swing, it will incorporate intensive after-school tutoring, summer school workshops and standardized test preparation; new Advanced Placement courses held at ASCC; teacher training toward certification and degrees for up to 50 teachers a year; and coordinated counseling, support and financial assistance for all cohort families. “Through GEAR UP, we plan to address four main issues of concern,” Tupua said. “First, we will focus on increasing the students’ skills in English and Math. Second, we want to increase the number of certified teachers in the classrooms of our public schools. Additionally, we hope to coordinate student support services as well as increase family emphasis and resources for post-secondary education.” Tupua said that federal funding for the project will continue through 2012.

“This new program represents an exciting challenge as we put theory into practice for educational improvement in our Territory,” reflected Dr. Satele-Galea’i. ASCC will publicize further GEAR UP news and information as the project progresses.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On September 7, 1911, USS *Princeton* relieved USS *Annapolis* as station ship for the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila and remained until May 5, 1915.

On September 8, 1943, USS *Arthur P. Gorman*, a Liberty Ship converted to an internal combustion engine repair ship, was renamed USS *Tutuila* at Baltimore, Maryland.

On September 8, 1962, Father Pio Taofinu'u, who was ordained as a priest on December 8, 1954, "was professed as a Marist."

On September 8, 1981, Gerry Speiss arrived in Pago Pago Harbor during his solo trans-Pacific voyage in a tiny sailboat/capsule.

On September 9, 1927, Captain Steven Victor Graham relieved Captain Henry Francis Bryan, and became American Samoa's 17th naval governor (until August 2, 1929).

On September 9, 1964, 70-year-old solo sailor William Willis, aboard his raft *Age Unlimited*, landed on a beach near Tully, Queensland, Australia. He had spent 204 days afloat, and had traveled over 11,000 miles.

On September 10, 1945, Captain Harold Alexander Houser relieved Captain Samuel Wakefield Canan and became American Samoa's 33rd naval governor (until April 22, 1947).

On September 11, 1930, the light cruiser USS *Omaha*, commanded by Captain John Downes, and carrying the American Samoan Commission and Pathé News photographer Merl LaVoy, weighed anchor at San Pedro, California en route to Pago Pago via Honolulu. The Commission's members included Senator Hiram Bingham, Republican of Connecticut, Chairman of the Commission and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs; Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, Democrat, Senate Minority Leader; Representative Carroll L. Beedy, Republican from Maine and Representative Guinn Williams of Texas, Democrat, both members of the House Committee on Insular Affairs. The Commission's naval adviser and paymaster was Captain William Rea Furlong, USN, who was the Chief of the Policy and Liaison Section of the Navy's Office of Island Governments. He subsequently became a Rear Admiral, and, as Commanding Officer of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, was responsible for salvaging most of the ships that were sunk on December 7, 1941, repairing them, and sending them off to war.

On September 11, 2002, the American Samoa Government held a memorial service for the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States in the Samoana Gymnasium in Utulei. The Call to Worship, Invocation, Sermon and Benediction were delivered by Reverend Elder Tapu Sitagata of the Nua and Se'etaga Congregational Church. Reverend Taulafo Avei, Chairman of the Tutuila Methodist Synod delivered the prayer while Deacon David Pereira of the Pago Pago Sacred Heart Parish read from scripture. Hymns were sung by choirs from the Departments of Public Safety, Public Works and Human and Social Services, with passages from Mozart's *Requiem* sung by the American Samoa Community College Choir. The address was given by Governor Tauese Sunia, and a candlelight ceremony was conducted by First Lady Fagaoli'i Sunia.

On September 15, 1944, the number of radio personnel at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila "consisted of 43 enlisted personnel and 15 officers. By June 1945, this number had been reduced to 32 enlisted men and 4 officers."

Aquaculture Workshop to be Held at ASCC Land Grant

(Press Release) Over the past several years, tilapia production on Tutuila has steadily increased. Tilapia "farmers" on Tutuila are successfully producing this fish species personal consumption and/or marketing. Would you like to learn more about producing tilapia on your own property?

Sea Grant will host an aquaculture workshop at the ASCC Land Grant Conference room this Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. This free workshop will provide interested individuals with information regarding tilapia aquaculture production. For more information or to make reservations, please call John Gonzales, the Sea Grant Aquaculture Extension Agent, at the Marine Science Department at 699-5358.

Additionally, the Samoan Sunfish Family Tilapia Co-op will hold a meeting at the ASCC Land Grant Conference Room on Friday, September 29, from 5-6:30 pm to discuss amending its by-laws and organizing fund



The tilapia fish, pictured here, provides an increasing number of local "farmers" with an abundant crop for personal consumption or marketing. Learn how you can farm tilapia on your property at the free Aquaculture Workshop this Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Land Grant Conference Room at ASCC. (Photo courtesy ASCC)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

Governor Togiola Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On:

Showers of Blessings-
FM 104.7

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124



The faculty and students of the ASCC Nursing Department, pictured here, will distribute filariasis medicine free of charge this Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the ASCC campus. (Photo courtesy ASCC)

ASCC Nurses to Distribute Filariasis Medicine This Week

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

For the third straight year, the Nursing Department at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will conduct a medicine distribution drive to fight the debilitating disease filariasis. Members of the public can receive their filariasis medicine free of charge this Wednesday and Thursday, September 13th and 14th, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at several sites on the ASCC campus. These sites include the College's main auditorium, cafeteria, library, and the Nursing Department headquarters in building A5.

With the advent of preventative medicine, recent years have seen a sharp decline in filariasis (*mumu*) in American Samoa. However, the disease, spread by mosquitoes, can still easily infect those who have not taken their pills to prevent it. With their medicine distribution drive this week, the ASCC Nursing faculty and students join a coordinated effort by the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control to eliminate filariasis worldwide. To reach this goal locally would require an 80% compliancy rate, which the ASCC Nursing Department almost reached last year when they distributed medicine to 70% of the island's eligible population. This year, they hope to surpass the 80% mark.

Anyone can receive the medicine, except for pregnant women and children under the age of two. "We see this community project as a way of reinforcing the Samoan cultural value of *tautua*," said Nursing instructor Patricia Brooks. "Our Nursing students get to be a part of an important international effort to eliminate a disease that has caused many medical problems for their culture." Brooks also wishes to remind the public that anyone with an affliction from filariasis can come to the Nursing Department to be shown exercises and daily foot care, provided they call and make an appointment in advance.

For more information on the free filariasis medicine distribution drive this Wednesday and Thursday, call ASCC at 699-9155 and ask for the Nursing Department.

GOVERNOR TOGIOLA'S STATEMENT ON DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY TAUFA'AHAU TUPOU IV – KING OF TONGA

"Mary and I are greatly saddened by the news of the passing of His Royal Majesty, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. This is, indeed, a great loss, not only to the Kingdom of Tonga, but to the entire Pacific Community. On behalf of the people and the United States Territory of American Samoa, I extend to Her Royal Majesty, Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho and the Royal Family, our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences for their enormous loss.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV has been a prominent person of distinction in the world and in the Pacific. He has been a great friend of American Samoa, and we will miss his presence quite profoundly.

He will always be remembered and respected as an inspiring leader in the Pacific, and a father figure to us and other neighboring nations, who truly enjoyed visiting the Territory to celebrate our Flag Days.

On a personal note, I will miss him very much and the many discussions about the history of the Pacific and of the world, and about culture, traditions and language of Polynesia, and the wide-range interests that he enjoyed sharing.

His Majesty will be sorely missed in the many lessons that I learned through his ideas and insights that I was privileged to have received through his friendship.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV has enriched the lives of many. May God rest his soul."

Tauiliili Elected to Third Term as BHE Chairman

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Board of Higher Education (BHE), the governing body which oversees the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) has re-elected incumbent chairman HC Pemerika Tauiliili to his third term in the position. The BHE has also chosen Dr. Oreta Togafau for another term as Vice Chairman. With more than a decade of continuous service to the BHE, Dr. Togafau currently holds the distinction as the longest-serving Board member.

The BHE have the crucial responsibility of selecting the ASCC President, and the Board also takes part in setting policies, approving budgets, approving or discontinuing programs at the College, and awarding degrees and certificates. Alongside HC Tauiliili and Dr. Togafau, the current BHE consists of Department of Education Director Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele, HTC Tiapula Imo Mamea, Rev. Dr. Leanavaotaua Sekuini Seva'aetasi, TC Fainuulelei L.F. Ala'ilima-Utu, HTC Uto'ofili Asoafaetai A. Maga, and Student Representative Faamoana Roe.

The BHE works in tandem with the ASCC administration to determine the priorities and overall direction of the College. Tauiliili stated that the current BHE seeks to strengthen programs that meet the needs of the community, such as Nursing, Trades & Technology, Teacher Education, and Samoan Language & Culture. The BHE also supports outreach programs such as College Bound, which help high school graduates avoid the need to take remedial courses in English and Math when they enter college.

Among the Board's recent accomplishments, Tauiliili cited the establishment and subsequent hiring of a Dean for Vocation Education. "This fulfilled a long-term need to upgrade the teaching of many skills that the private sector desperately needs," he said. The BHE also secured the land on which the College sits, and has enabled continuous upgrades to its facilities. "We consider the tremendous increase in ASCC student enrollment, from less than a thousand a few years ago to around 1600 today, as one of our biggest accomplishments," said the Chairman, adding that credit should also go to the College's administration, faculty and staff.

Asked about the challenges the BHE will face in the near future, Tauiliili explained, "The board has added an unwritten priority to find revenues to meet the growing needs at ASCC. While we greatly appreciate the support of the Governor, the Fono, Congressman Faleomavaega Eni and the Department of the Interior, the BHE would like to look for funds that will provide long term results, and have no programs attached. We intend to look more towards the private sector, who benefit from the trained manpower coming out of the College, and also to the many foundations that make donations for tax benefits." He added that the BHE approved the establishment of a task force to review all the existing programs besides its current priorities for consolidation and streamlining. The BHE will select another set of priorities at the end of this long-term review.

Tauiliili served in the US Navy from 1954 to 1958, then entered the University of Hawaii in 1959 and graduated with a bachelor degree in Agricultural Economics. He returned to Samoa in 1964 and worked at the Department of Agriculture in various areas before becoming its Director from 1971 to 1980. From 1981 to 1994, Tauiliili worked as the first director of the newly established Land Grant program. He started from the very beginning as the only Land Grant employee, and under his leadership the program steadily grew into one of the largest divisions of ASCC. While at Land Grant, Tauiliili also earned a masters degree from San Diego State University in Education and Management.

During Tauiliili's tenure as Director, Land Grant added its existing office buildings, garage, piggery and greenhouses. He retired in 1994, after securing the funding and putting in place the plans to build the Land Grant research facility. These days, besides serving on the BHE, Tauiliili also writes books on Samoan language, culture and history. Last year he published his first book of Samoana stories and games for children, titled "Le Tu Manu ae Tu Logologo," and he has almost completed his second book, which he hopes to have published by early 2007. Tauiliili said his new book, "Anofale o le Gagana male Aʻoanu." will focus on traditional Samoan protocol and etiquette for adults.



Newly re-elected Board of Higher Education HC Pemerika Tauiliili (front row, center) celebrates the occasion with the other members of the Board. Front row: (l-r) Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele, Tauiliili, ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i. Second row: (l-r) Student Representative Faamoana Roe, HTC Tiapula Imo Mamea, Secretary Sia Taufua, Rev. Dr. Leanavaotaua Sekuini Seva'aetasi and TC Fainuulelei L.F. Ala'ilima-Utu. Not pictured: Dr. Oreta Togafau. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)